

# Congressional Update



Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

*60<sup>th</sup> Town Hall and  
Mobile District Office Hour*

March 3, 2018

# Hosted **60** Town Halls & Mobile District Office Hours

2015	2016	2017		2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concord</li> <li>Richmond</li> <li>Danville</li> <li>Pleasant Hill</li> <li>Rossmoor</li> <li>El Cerrito</li> <li>Orinda</li> <li>Clayton</li> <li>San Pablo</li> <li>Pittsburg</li> <li>Pacheco</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walnut Creek</li> <li>San Pablo</li> <li>Antioch</li> <li>Facebook</li> <li>Richmond</li> <li>Danville</li> <li>Orinda</li> <li>Rossmoor</li> <li>Concord</li> <li>Pittsburg</li> <li>El Cerrito</li> <li>Martinez</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facebook</li> <li>Martinez</li> <li>Pleasant Hill</li> <li>Antioch</li> <li>Richmond</li> <li>Lafayette</li> <li>Telephone</li> <li>Telephone</li> <li>Danville</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moraga</li> <li>Richmond</li> <li>Concord</li> <li>Pittsburg</li> <li>Facebook</li> <li>Walnut Creek</li> <li>Telephone</li> <li>Facebook</li> <li>Orinda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>El Cerrito</li> <li>Facebook</li> <li>Martinez</li> <li>San Pablo</li> <li>Pleasant Hill</li> <li>Lafayette</li> <li><b>CONCORD</b></li> </ul>

Mobile District Office Hours				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>El Cerrito</li> <li>Pittsburg</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bay Point</li> <li>Walnut Creek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Richmond</li> <li>Lafayette</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moraga</li> <li>Martinez</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bay Point</li> <li>Kensington</li> <li>Walnut Creek</li> </ul>

# Stay Tuned for Issue Specific Town Halls

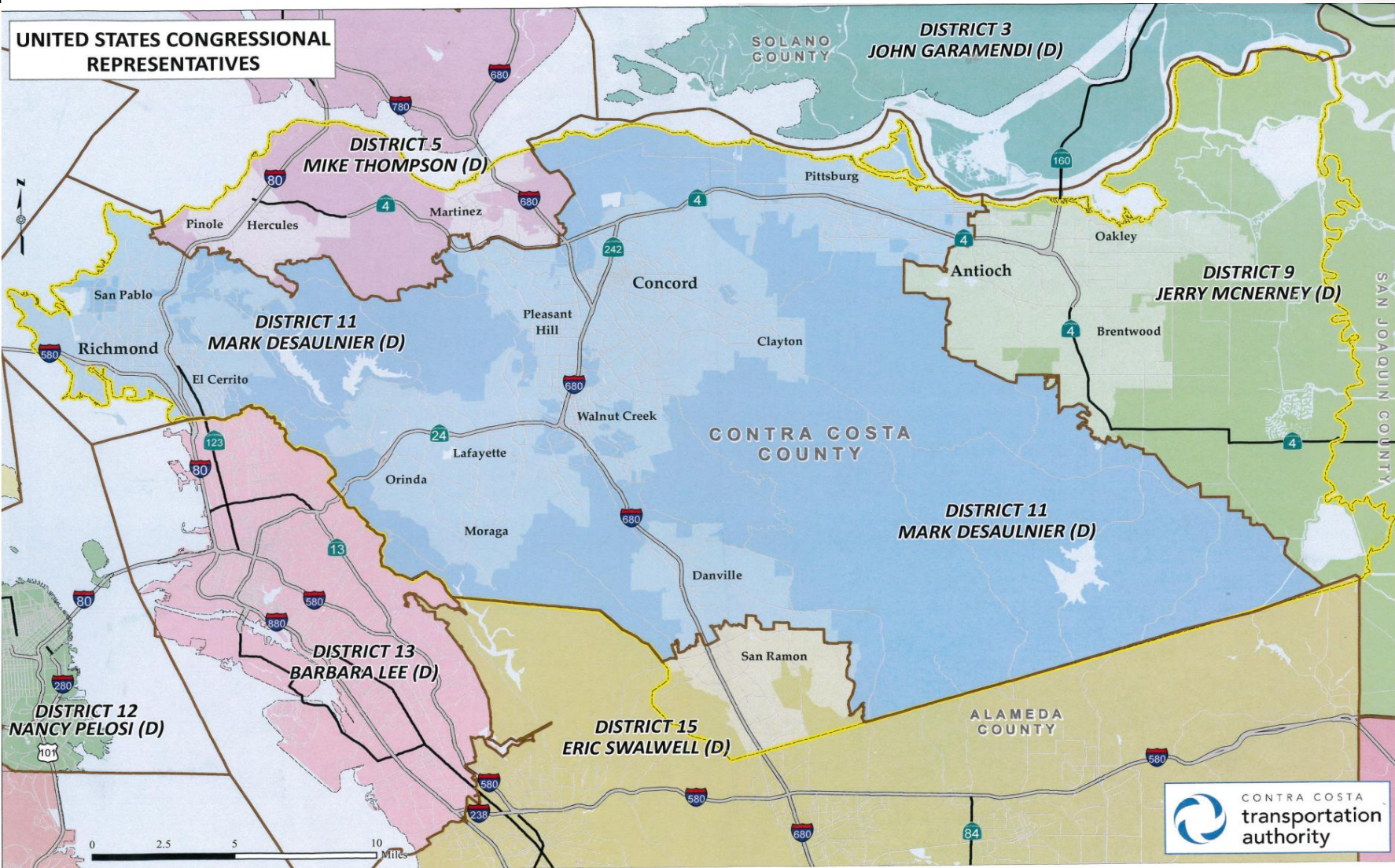
Already Hosted Town Halls on the Following Topics:

- Conversation on Race Town Hall
- 3 Town Halls on Republican Tax Bill
- Gun Violence Prevention Town Hall

**Vote on Upcoming Topics on Twitter:**

**@RepDeSaulnier**

# Map of the Congressional District (CA-11)



# In The News

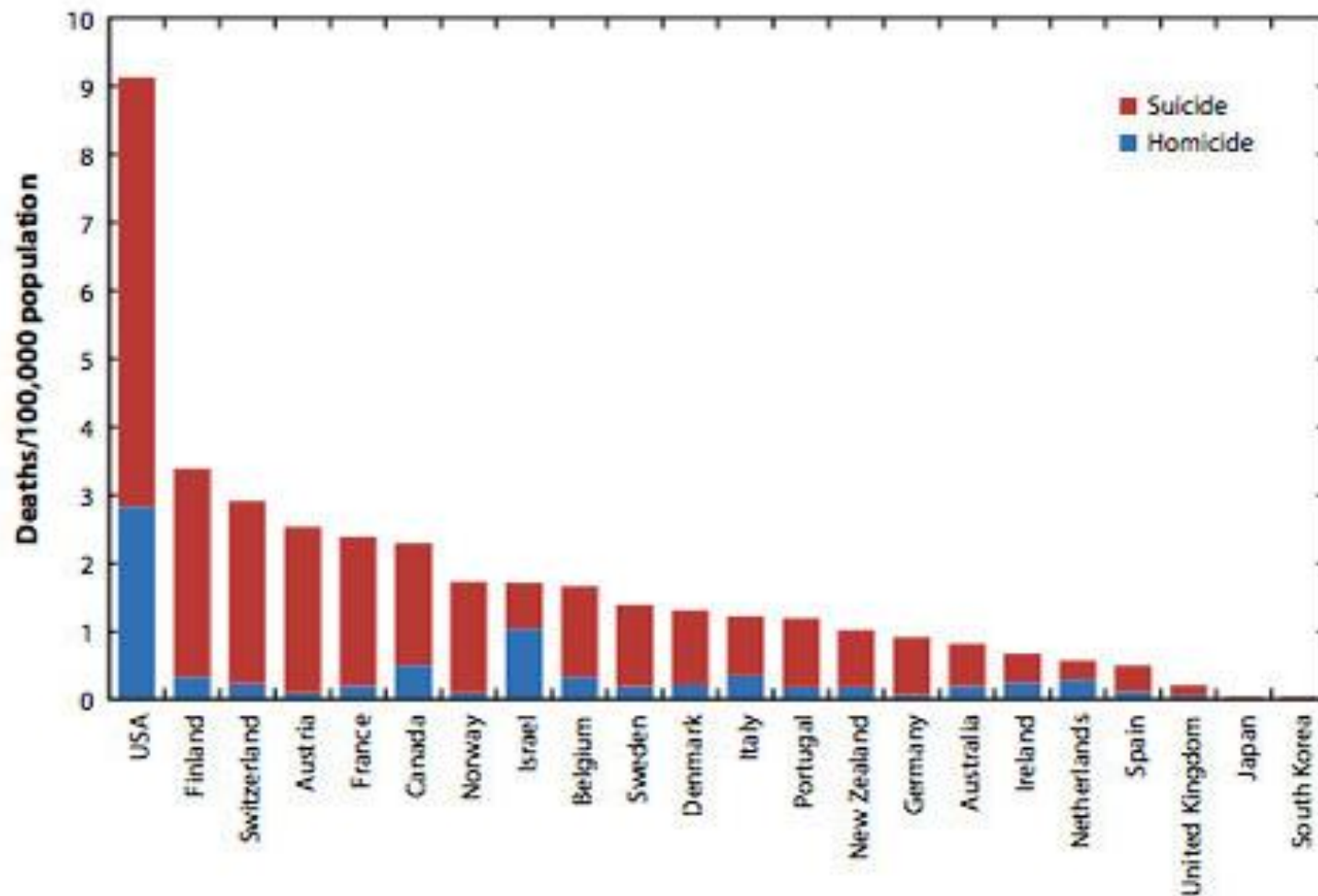
# Gun Violence

- Gun violence claims over **30,000 lives annually** in the United States.
- The U.S. firearm homicide rate is **20 times higher** than the combined rates of 22 comparable countries.
- Americans make up about **4.4% of the global population**, but own **42% of the world's guns**.
- Gun industry annual net profit: **\$1.5 billion**
  - Annual cost of gun violence: **\$290 billion**
- Since 2003, state and local governments have given more than **\$120 million in tax subsidies** to at least seven major firearms companies.

## *DeSaulnier Efforts:*

- **Lifetime “F” score from the NRA**
- **Never accepted donations from the NRA**
- **Drafting bill** to create Gun Safety Board
- **Authored 2 bills and 1 amendment** to help reduce gun violence
- **Supported 34 gun violence prevention bills**
- **Joined effort** to force a vote on universal background checks

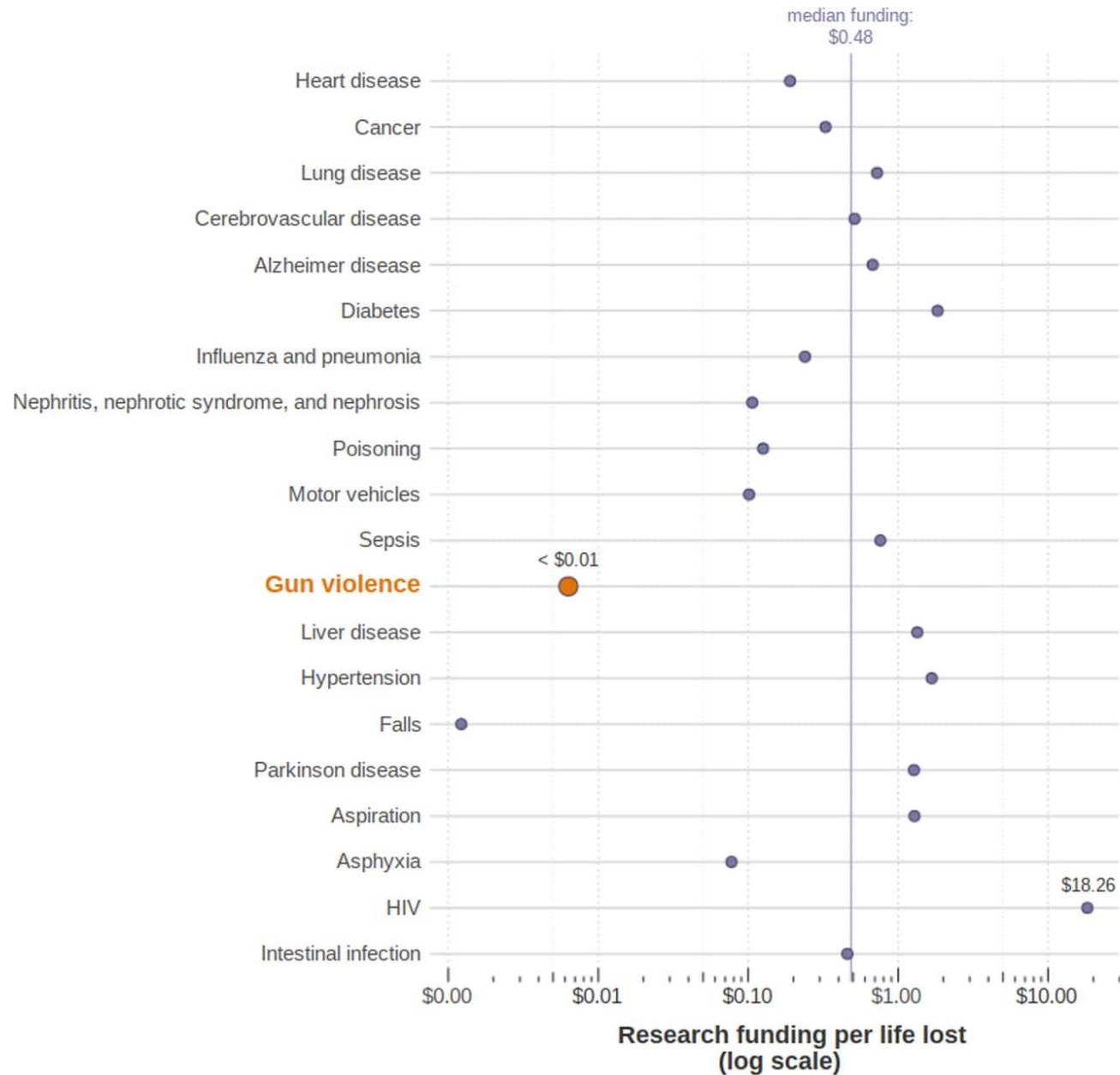




**Figure 11**

Mortality rates for firearm suicide and homicide for selected members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Data available at the GunPolicy.org website, <http://www.gunpolicy.org> (accessed August 28, 2014).

## Gun Violence Receives Less Federal Research Funding Than Most of the Top 20 Causes of Death in the United States



Source: Stark, 2017.



# Aviation Safety

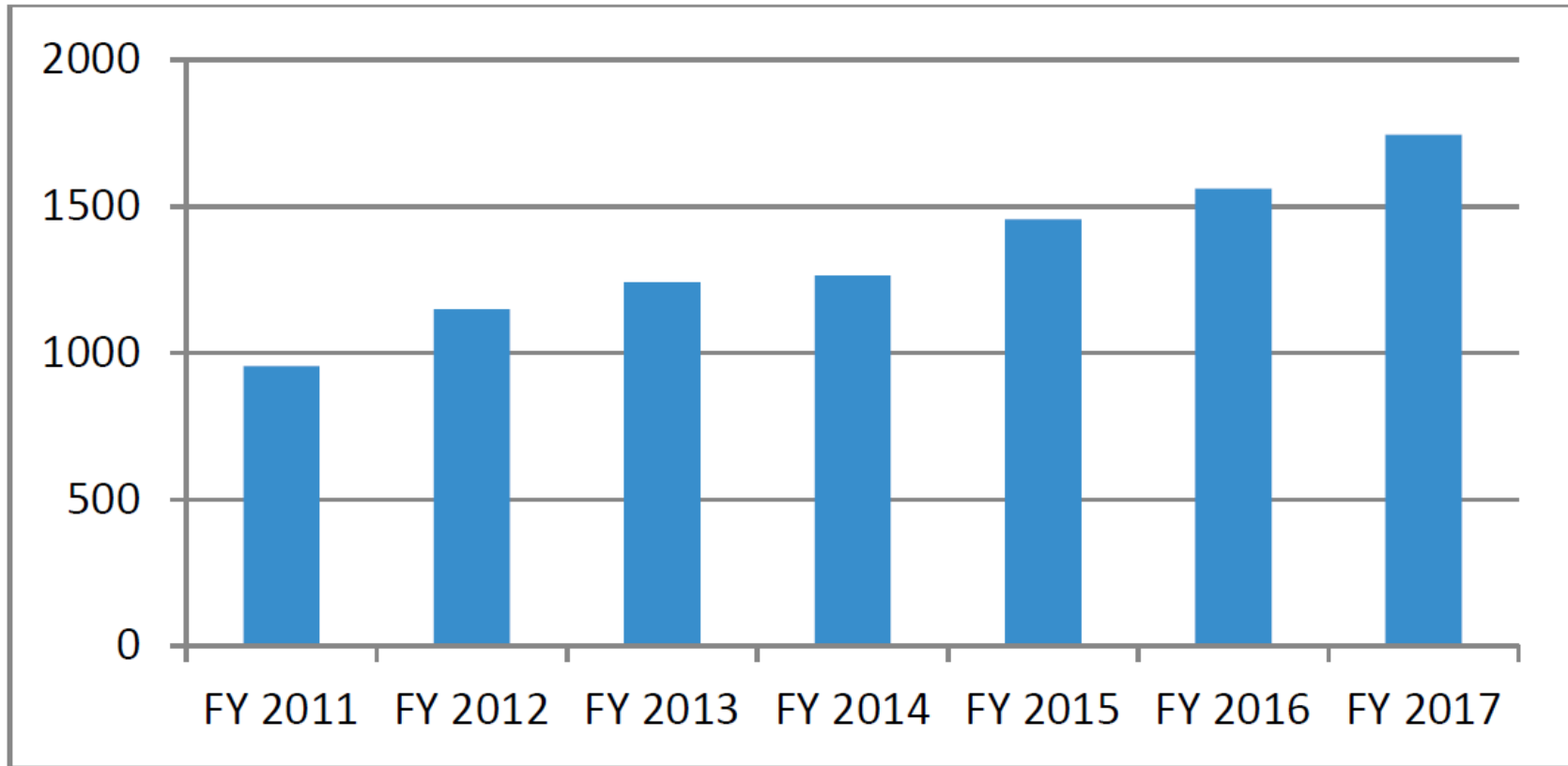
## *Close Calls at SFO & Other Airports*

- Our nation's air travel system is world class. **The number of accidents has steadily declined and our system is safe.**
- However, the number of runway incursions **increased 83%** between 2011 and 2017.

### *DeSaulnier Efforts:*

- Asked GAO to review gaps in aviation safety and make recommendations to Congress
- Pressed FAA, NTSB to investigate close calls at airports and improve airplane landing safety
- Working with pilots unions to address safety concerns
- Called on Transportation Committee to investigate aviation safety
  - Hearing was held on **February 27<sup>th</sup>**

# Total Number of Runway Incursions Fiscal Years 2011-2017



Source: OIG analysis

# Protecting Our Democracy

## *Integrity of Our Elections*

- **Social media bots/fake accounts:** Preventing automated social media accounts from spreading false information that can change the outcome of elections
- **Election machine integrity:** Protecting our election machines from cyber attacks

### *DeSaulnier Efforts:*

- **Developing legislation** to require bot accounts on social media to be labeled and easily traceable to a human user
- **Sponsor of the Election Security Act (H.R. 5011)**, which provides financial support and enhanced security for election infrastructure
- **Requested an Oversight Committee hearing** on election machine cybersecurity, which was **held in November**

# Immigration

- Trump-imposed DACA deadline: **March 5<sup>th</sup>**
  - Courts have ruled that the Administration must continue to accept renewals → **This is not a permanent solution.**
  - Dreamers will contribute **\$460.3 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product** over the next decade.
- Administration has ended Temporary Protected Status for Sudan, Haiti, Nicaragua, and El Salvador – **322,000 people**
- Bipartisan options in the House and Senate
- **Speaker Ryan will not allow a vote on immigration reform**

## *DeSaulnier Efforts:*

- **Support Dream Act** to provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers
- Sent letters to ICE **opposing targeted immigration raids** in Northern California

# Tax Bill

- Last major tax reform: 1986
  - **President:** Ronald Reagan
  - **Speaker of the House:** Thomas “Tip” O’Neill (D-MA)
  - **Senate President Pro Tem:** Strom Thurmond (R-SC)
  - Bipartisan effort in both House and Senate
  - Almost 11 months between introduction and it being signed into law (in contrast, H.R. 1 introduced 11/2/17 signed into law on 12/22/17)
- Since 1986, the U.S. tax code has gone from less than 30,000 pages to over 70,000 pages
- The amount of credits, loopholes, and deductions has increased by 44 percent, from \$844 billion (2013 dollars), to over \$1.2 trillion (2013 dollars)

# Tax Bill

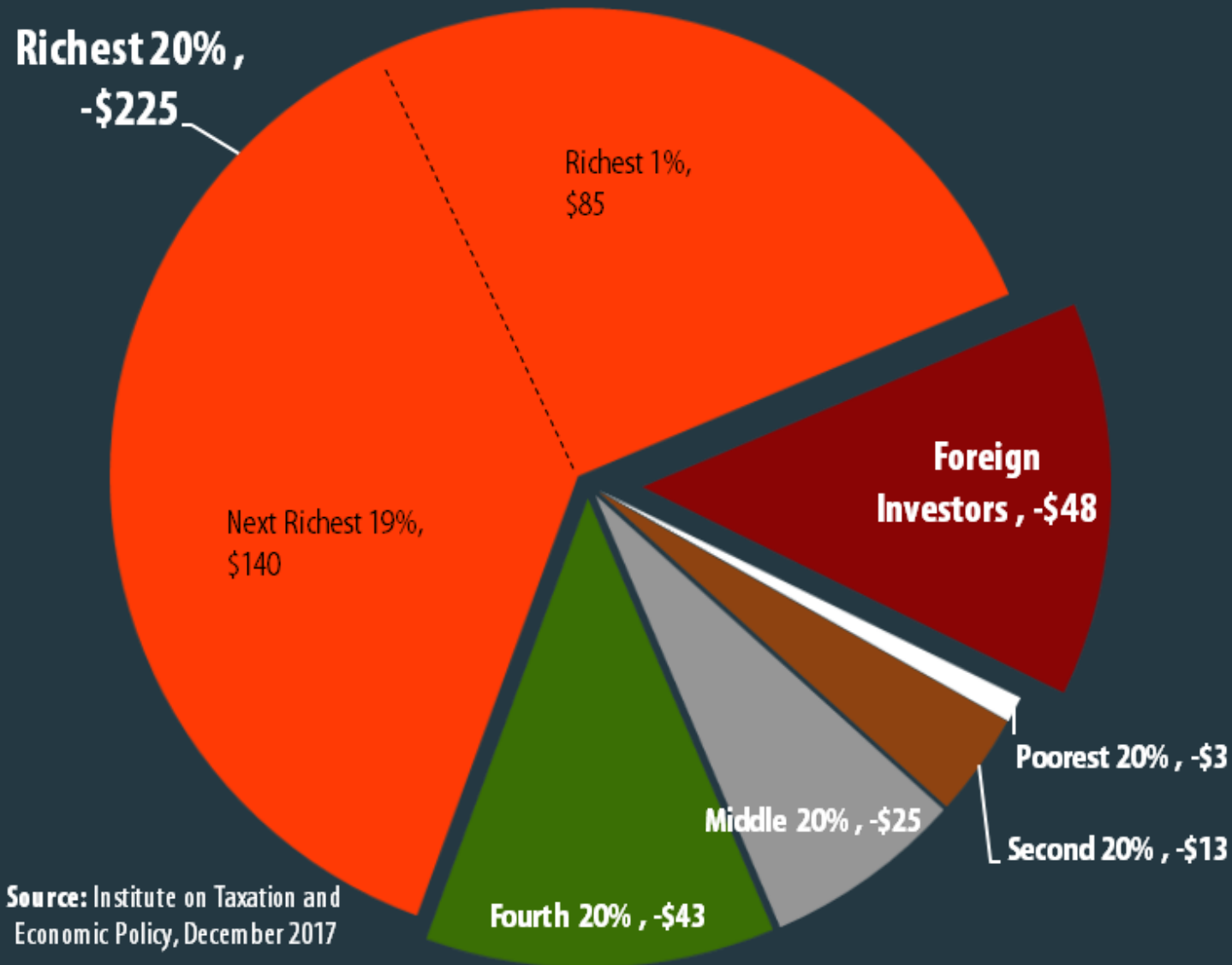
- **Adds \$1.8 trillion to debt** over 10 years (CBO)
- **83% of the tax cuts go to the wealthiest 1%** (Tax Policy Center)
- Raises taxes on **86 million middle class families**
- \$1.3 trillion (permanent) tax break for corporations
- Massive tax rate cut from **35% to 21% for corporations**
- **Repeal of the “individual mandate”**
  - Will result in 13 million people losing health coverage
  - Without the individual mandate, premiums estimated to increase by 10% per year

## *DeSaulnier Efforts:*

- Called for maintaining **State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction**
- **Voted against** Republican tax bill (H.R. 1)



# Trump-GOP Tax Plan in 2019: Who Benefits and How Much (in billions)



# Richest 1% of Taxpayers Receive the Largest Average Tax Cut Under the Revised Senate Plan in 2027, the Average Taxpayer in the Bottom 60% Faces a Tax Hike

*Includes Impact of ACA Individual Mandate Repeal*



# Tax Bill – California Impacts

- Mortgage Interest Deduction – currently capped on debt of \$1,000,000; new law reduces cap to \$750,000
- Home Equity Loan Interest Deduction Eliminated
- State and Local Tax Deductions – limited to \$10,000
  - Average deduction in 2015 in our district: **\$18,672**, with **44% of households claiming the deduction**
  - Pressure on states and local governments to cut taxes and cut back on services

## Final GOP-Trump Tax Bill Gives Larger Tax Cuts to Upper-Income California Residents in 2019, Raises Taxes on Low-and Middle-Income Residents in 2027

*Tax Change as a Share of Income in 2019 and 2027, Includes Impact of ACA Individual Mandate Repeal*



INSTITUTE ON TAXATION AND ECONOMIC POLICY • ITEP.ORG

# What's Next

- DACA deadline imposed by White House: **March 5<sup>th</sup>**
- New Fiscal Year 2018 budget deadline: **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- FAA reauthorization: **March 31<sup>st</sup>**
- Trump Infrastructure Package:
  - Proposes to shift costs to state and local governments
  - **First hearing next week in Transportation Committee**
- Higher Education Act reauthorization: **Timing TBD**
- Fiscal Year 2019 budget process:
  - President's Budget: **February 12<sup>th</sup>**
  - Congressional budget agreement: **April 15<sup>th</sup>**

# Leading in Congress



# Congressional Actions

**7 initiatives** enacted into law, including efforts to:

- Streamline Head Start and protect after school programs
- Prevent student concussions
- Transparency for veterans on the benefits they have earned

**13 legislative efforts** passed the House and Committee including efforts to:

- Make housing affordable
- Recognize the importance of the 16 million “Rosies the Riveter”
- Expand John Muir National Historic Site

## **Caucuses & Initiatives:**

- **Future of Work Wages and Labor**
- **Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus, *Founder & Co-Chair***
- **Urban Regional Studies Caucus, *Founder***

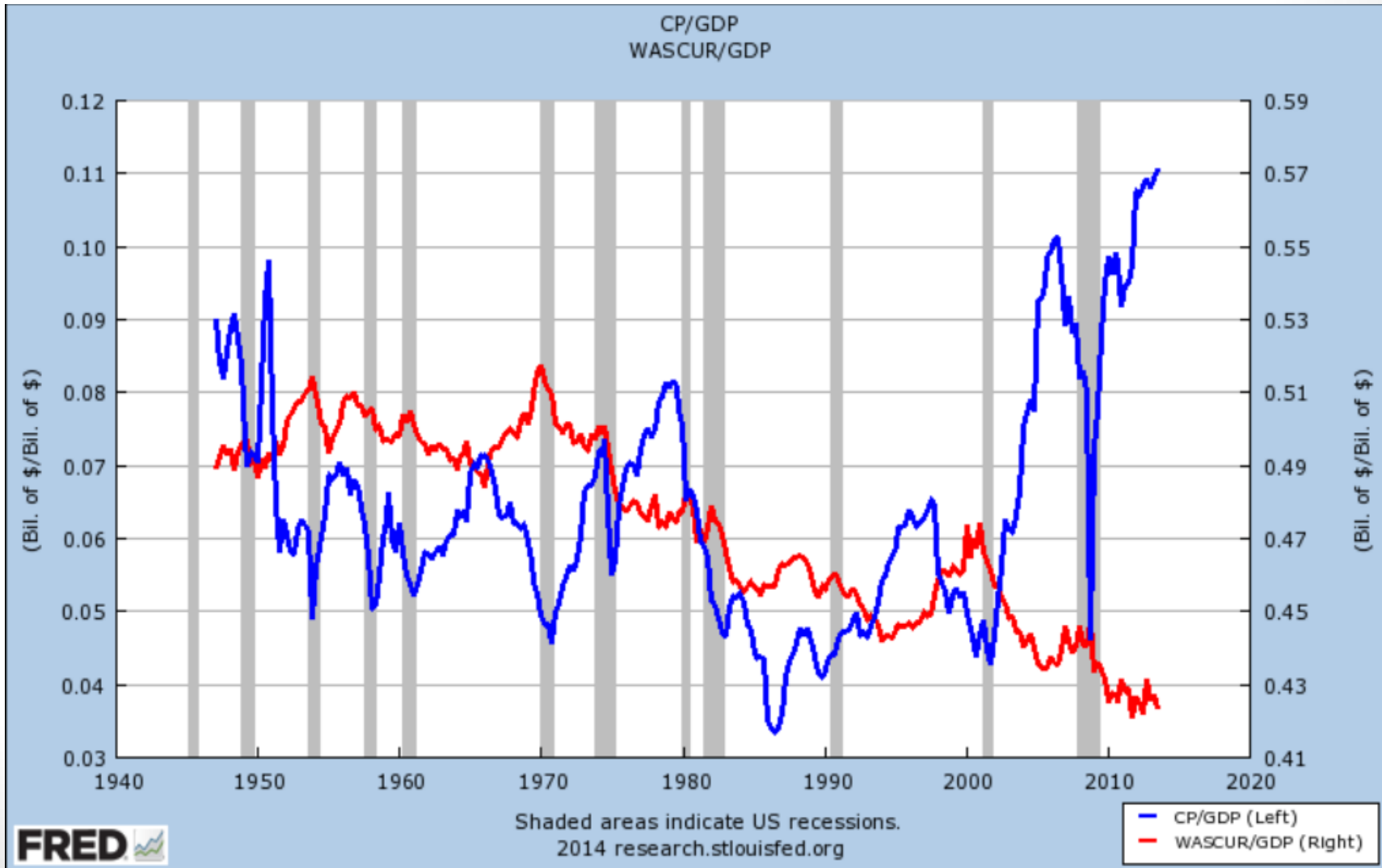
# DeSaulnier Efforts on Cancer

- **Co-founder of the bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus**
- **Introducing bipartisan Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act** next week with Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) to improve doctor-patient communication by enabling access for more patients to cancer treatment plans
- **Hosted Cancer Moonshot Event** – 250 people attended
- Held a roundtable with **the President of the Biden Cancer Initiative – Greg Simon** to discuss cancer care in America
- Upcoming Member **meeting with the Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) – Dr. Ned Sharpless** to discuss the future of cancer care
- Upcoming Member trip to University of California San Francisco Comprehensive Cancer Center

# Inequality



# Wage Vs. Profit Share of GDP

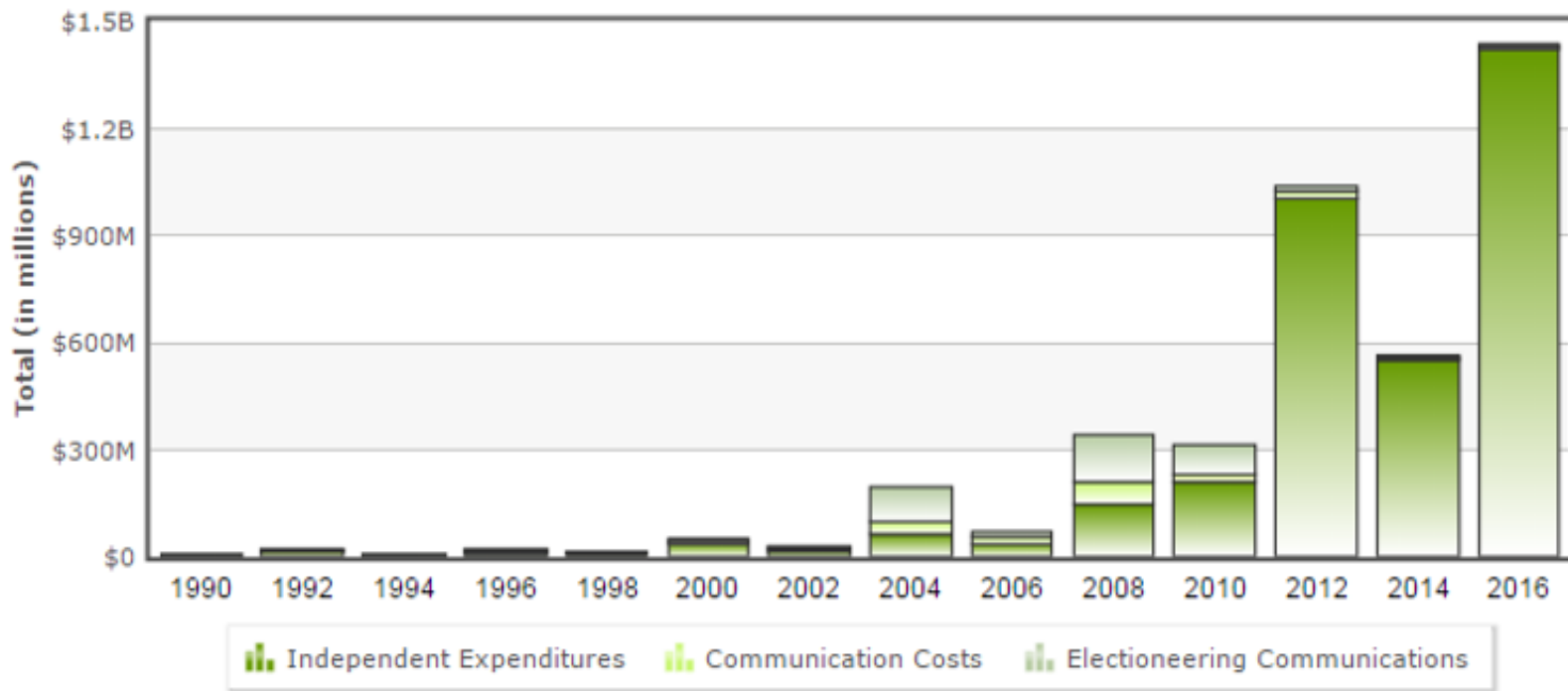


# Campaign Finance

- **The 2016 election cycle was the most expensive election on record**, with over \$6.9 billion spent on the Presidential and Congressional elections combined, a 120% increase over the 2000 elections
- The cost of Congressional elections has spiked even further, with over \$4.2 billion spent in 2016, **a 155% increase from the 2000 elections**
- The *Government by the People Act* would encourage public financing of political campaigns to:
  - Provide citizens with a campaign contribution credit to let their voice be heard and
  - Gives candidates an incentive to seek out small donors

# Campaign Finance

## Outside Spending by Cycle, Excluding Party Committees





# Our Office



**2018 FINALIST** | **CONSTITUENT SERVICE**

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*“Rep. DeSaulnier and his staff are to be congratulated for not only being a model for colleagues in Congress, but for helping to restore trust and faith that our democratic institutions can work.”*

– Bradford Fitch, **President and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation**

\*DeSaulnier’s office was one out of six in Congress (3 Democrats, 3 Republicans) selected for this award.

# CONGRESSMAN DESAULNIER'S CONSTITUENT SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS



*ASSISTED*  
**3,000+**

Constituents in  
navigating problems  
with a federal agency



*HOSTED* **59**

Town Halls & Mobile  
District Office Hours



*RESPONDED TO*

**235,650+** Constituent inquiries



☑ = 10,000 responses

*ATTENDED*

**525+** Community events & meetings



**445,000+**

Miles flown between  
California & Washington, DC



**27** **BILLS & AMENDMENTS**

**20** Bills Authored

**7** Amendments Enacted



*HELPED*

**2,400+**

Constituents secure tours of  
the Washington, D.C. area

# Performance Standards

- The private sector uses performance metrics and standards to gauge businesses' efficiency and effectiveness, using collected data to hold leaders accountable and perfect their business model over time
- Performance measures in the public sector are critical to ensuring that hard-earned taxpayer dollars are spent in the most effective manner
  - *Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act (H.R. 3787)*
  - *Transportation Megaprojects Accountability and Oversight Act (H.R. 4228)*
- Internal office performance metrics include:
  - **Meeting Requests:** If you request a meeting, expect to receive a response within 24-hours
  - **Correspondence:** Emails and letters received in our office will be sent a response within 5 business days of receipt
  - **Casework:** Requests for assistance through our website or by phone will receive a phone call within 24-hours
  - **Tours & Flags:** Requests submitted through our website will receive a phone call within 24-hours

# Contact Our Office

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Fax: (510) 620-1005

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***Congressional Website:***

[www.desaulnier.house.gov](http://www.desaulnier.house.gov)